



THE CINCINNATI ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND ANNUAL REPORT 1968







A YEAR OF EVALUATION

1968 was a year of considerable accomplishment for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind. It was a year of achievement made possible through the diligent and conscientious efforts of our Board of Trustees and our Executive Director and staff, and by the citizens of this community who, through the Community Chest and in other ways, have supported us in carrying out our mission.

The ceremonies dedicating our new building early in the year attracted more than 1,000 interested persons. These included civic and government leaders, representatives from social agencies, as well as the general public. This open house acquainted the community with the high degree of professionalism that has marked the work of the Association over the years. More important than the dedication of our building, however, has been what we accomplished during the year for people who are blind or have visual handicaps.

The Association's purpose is to help each person develop a level of independence and self-sufficiency in each area of his life - social, emotional, and vocational - commensurate with his maximum potential. The following pages trace through words, pictures, a financial statement, and the report of Executive Director Milton Jahoda how this purpose is achieved.

We are convinced you will understand why we need the support of all those members of this community who are concerned about the well-being of our blind citizens. We are always appreciative of this generosity and interest on the part of the enlightened people of the area we serve.

We look to the immediate future with confidence, assured that the Cincinnati Association for the Blind will continue to set and reach new goals in serving the blind people of this community.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Harold J. Woehrmyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "W".

Harold J. Woehrmyer, President

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION

In the year just passed, more than 42,000 Americans became blind.

The blind population of this country is increasing at a rate twice that of the general population.

Greater longevity is one of the major factors. Cataract formations are present in 60% of our people at age 60. Two million persons over 40 years of age have glaucoma, and, by age 65, about 10% of our population will be affected by this disease.

Furthermore, 12 million of our school children need some form of eye care and 3-½ million among us have serious visual impairment that cannot be corrected with glasses.

Several years ago when 42,000 cases of polio were reported in one year, the nation went into a state of shock. But the country marshalled its resources and a cure for polio was developed.

Research, unfortunately, has not yet achieved for blindness what it did for polio. So the problem of rehabilitation becomes more and more demanding. Only 6,000 of last year's 42,000 new blind people were rehabilitated.

Until blindness can be prevented, there will remain a tremendous need for skilled professional men and women to help those with lost vision become readjusted to a new and unfamiliar world.

The program formulated by the Cincinnati Association for the Blind, directed by experienced administrators and executed by a staff of competent specialists, is aimed at bringing as many as are in need of its special services into the orbit of this agency's rehabilitation resources.

Professional direction and social workers with educational backgrounds and person to person experience will continue to characterize the services available to all with visual handicaps who care to call or visit the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.





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THE FIRST STEP

There is the story of a blind pet that astounded guests by its unerring maneuvering throughout the house, a happy and blithe creature, until one day the leg of an end table was accidentally moved a few inches from its customary spot. When the lively little pet struck the out of place piece, it crawled away to a corner and never moved again.

The first step in a world suddenly made dark is for the blind person to regain his confidence.

This comes, in part, from patient, skillful help of trained instructors who teach those who lack vision to walk alone among the sighted--to walk and play and identify themselves with the ways of active living.

This is the role of mobility instructors . . . career specialists in a program inaugurated ten years ago and pioneered by the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.

The training starts with the use of a cane fitted to the specific requirements of each individual, followed by simple instructions that guide the student about his home, his office or shop, by the mere use of his hands and arms.

The "road of independence" becomes challenging and interesting under the tutoring of people who know their profession, because the student learns that a mere limitation in his vision is no reason to vacate the world and its opportunities for a productive and meaningful life.

This is a gratifying contribution to the program of our specialists in the area of restoring mobility to those who have no sight--an important phase in the rehabilitation program sponsored by the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.

LEARNING TO LIVE AGAIN

Have you ever tried to pour a cup of hot coffee in the black of night?

Perhaps not, but this serves to dramatize how difficult simple tasks can be to those who cannot see.

Dialing a telephone. . .selecting the proper color tie. . .putting on lipstick. . .setting the table. . .preparing a meal. . .dusting. . .sweeping. . .making the beds. . .ironing. . .living an active life.

These are the day-to-day chores our instructors teach in the completely equipped home-living center incorporated in the functional layout of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind's new headquarters.

For those not yet ready or able to visit the Association headquarters, trained workers visit the home to perform a multitude of direct services.

The case worker provides counseling to stem possible emotional problems evolving from blindness. She strives to build confidence in the person in pursuit of daily living activities, which is the first step in the rehabilitation process.

Probably the most significant contribution made by our professionally oriented case workers is to enlist the family's acceptance, understanding and encouragement of its handicapped member.

The ultimate objective among all staff people has been and must continue to be aimed at enabling the blind person to assume his proper role in the home, on the job, and in the community.

Blind and near-blind persons in the Greater Cincinnati area are being prepared to live with limited vision--to take up from where they were before blindness closed in--to make adjustments leading to a normal, happy and useful life.

There are many others, too--children, teenagers, adults--whose world is confined because of blindness.

They, too, are invited to join the hundreds of other blind persons who have learned to enjoy a fuller and more productive life through the professional services provided by the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.





KEEPING IN TOUCH

The world's treasures of written words -- the classics, today's fiction, popular magazines, scientific and non-fiction writings -- are available through the popular talking book program of the Library of Congress. The Cincinnati Association for the Blind is the distributor of the talking book machine, the special record player lent to blind persons to play talking book records. The "books" are recorded by professional readers and actors for those who cannot see to read or are physically unable to hold a book or turn a page.

While handicapped students are able to advance their education through the use of recorded textbooks, most of the users of talking book machines read primarily for pleasure, and their tastes run toward fiction and light non-fiction. Recordings of a new best seller are rapidly available. An author feels complimented to be asked for permission to have his book recorded.

The Association's rehabilitation teacher encourages the use of talking books, visits the individual in his home, determines his needs, helps him qualify for the service, delivers a talking book machine for his free use, explains how he can order recordings from the public library, and trains him in the simple techniques of operation.

Talking book machines are the property of the Library of Congress, but are lent for life to individuals who meet the prescribed requirements. Telephone Pioneers, highly skilled technicians from the Cincinnati & Suburban Bell Telephone Company, service and repair the machines as a voluntary task.

Talking books are sent free through the mail and returned to the public library the same way. However, storage, distribution and demonstrations of the talking book machines in this area are a voluntary service of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.

1968: A VERY GOOD YEAR

It is as much a pleasure to report on the services provided by the Association in 1968 as it is to have a new, modern facility and competent professional staff to provide these services to the people in our community who are blind or visually handicapped. Last year the Cincinnati Association for the Blind helped 2,005 persons, and averaged 25 new applications for help per month.

In our Low Vision Lens Service which is described in this report, 52 sessions were held, attended by 100 different persons with severe visual impairment. Three out of four persons seen by our staff ophthalmologist responsible for this service were able to improve their "see-ability" with some form of low vision aid.

Our rehabilitation teaching department was fully staffed with two full-time qualified persons for only the last six months of 1968. However, we were still able to provide 121 persons with 798 individual or group lessons in communication skills (primarily Braille and typing), self-care, domestic skills taught in our model apartment, and other aids to daily living.

Over 100 hours per month of orientation or mobility instruction were given by our two orientation and mobility specialists. During the last quarter of 1968, when our mobility staff was complete, 32 persons received instructions for a total of 404 hours. In addition to mobility training, our specialists worked with children and adults in helping them become oriented and adjusted to a school or job environment.

Our vocational counseling service reflects the Association's emphasis on helping blind and visually handicapped people be as self-sufficient as possible. Our vocational counselor administered 22 psychological tests and 23 vocational evaluations, as well as counseling with 232 people regarding vocational planning.

Some 60 requests per month involving Talking Book Machines were processed by our social service department in 1968. At the year's end, 521 Talking Book Machines were on loan to eligible persons in the Cincinnati - Southwestern Ohio area. A monthly average of 25 families were helped by social casework counseling on social or emotional problems related to severe visual impairment.



Milton A. Jahoda, *Executive Director*

In 1968 the workshop, which employed over 100 blind men and women during the year, came closer to its goal of providing full employment as a result of more contracts from local industry and National Industries for the Blind. Averaging out the "high" and "low" employment months, in 1968 the workshop employed 96 persons per month, an increase of almost 17% over the previous year.

Our newest service, made possible by a facility within our new building and through an arrangement with the Speech and Hearing Center, which has been most cooperative, was hearing evaluation, an important factor to be understood in rehabilitating blind persons.

Another innovation during 1968 was the Association's application to the National Accreditation Council of Agencies Serving the Visually Handicapped (NAC). An agency-wide self-study, involving Board, staff and community experts, has been initiated as part of the accreditation process, which will be completed this year.

Without the support of many volunteers, the objectives of the Association's service program would have fallen far short of its goals. The camp program at the Max and Alfred M. Stern Memorial has benefitted substantially for many years from the faithful work of Delta Gamma fraternity. In 1968, they provided camperships, equipment for the camp, and transportation. The continuing interest and support of the Price Hill and the Downtown Lions Clubs enriched the Association's program through generous contributions.

Another new service in 1968 was the beginning of an extensive volunteer program by The Cincinnati Woman's Club. This promises to be a rewarding and enriching experience for the Association and, we hope, for the many participating members of The Cincinnati Woman's Club.

My sincere thanks to all the volunteers, the staff, the Board of Trustees and the officers headed by Harold J. Woehrmyer, President, and to the community. This report would not have been possible without their continued support and interest.

Milton A. Jahoda
Executive Director

FINGERTIP READING

Braille is the universal system of communication available to the visually handicapped. Small raised dots are used in place of printed letters, and reading is done through the touch of the fingers.

Once a blind person has learned to read Braille, the resources of the thinking world are literally at his fingertips.

Subjects by the thousand are available in Braille, including history, mathematics, science, law, economics, poetry, fiction. Monthly publications such as *Reader's Digest* are available in Braille. So are popular best selling novels and scientific treatises prepared for scholars and professional people.

A blind person using the Braille cell can play the piano from musical Braille characters. Games such as bingo, playing cards, dominos, checkers and dice are available in Braille.

Raised dots are used to tell time on a Braille watch or clock. They are found on kitchen and household appliances, thermometers, timers and measuring devices. In the Cincinnati Association for the Blind elevator, raised dots are used to help blind people find the correct button.

Thanks to the Cincinnati Downtown Lions Club, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind this year has added an IBM Braille typewriter, a machine that types raised Braille characters instead of conventional letters--a most unique and functional device for typing messages in Braille for inter-office and instructional purposes. Through the rehabilitation teachers of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind, instructions are given to any person interested in learning to read and write Braille.





PASSPORTS TO THE WORLD OF PRINT

The Cincinnati Association for the Blind has been issuing "passports" for re-entry into the world of print since 1964.

These passports are in the form of special lenses prescribed for individuals with serious vision impairment.

They are prescribed by an attending eye physician after skilled extensive examination in the agency's Low Vision Lens Service Center.

In its four years of operation, LVLS has been able to help three out of every four persons tested by fitting them with proper low vision aids.

These aids mainly consist of high powered magnifying lenses, some hand held or mounted on table frames, some set into eye glass frames or clipped onto the upper part of them. Others are self-contained in illuminators or pocket telescopes.

Low vision aids do not, of course, restore normal reading vision. Like most real passports, the curved glass optical lens does not confer unlimited privileges on the holder. Work and patience are usually required in order to use the aids effectively.

Through the assistance and support of the ophthalmologists in the Cincinnati area, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind has established in its building an optical aids clinic that has contributed greatly towards answering the visual need of pre-school, adolescent, and teenage children and adults from every segment of Greater Cincinnati's five-county area.

To apply for a "passport" to the world of black on white--simply call the Cincinnati Association for the Blind.

WORKING FOR PAY

The industrial division of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind had a good year in 1968.

One of the highlights was a new private industry contract that provided jobs and wages for 150 people in our modern streamlined workshop. A total of three million packages were processed and shipped-on time.

Preparation of in-flight dining utensils for the government gave continuity of employment to others on the assembly line, which produced 70,000 units a day.

On another contract, our workshop people capped the five millionth bottle with a glass top . . . a project that kept our blind workers busy five months of the year.

Also during the 1968 work year, a new Hayssen poly packaging machine was installed. This piece of equipment makes a bag around a product at the rate of 100 packages per minute. With this additional equipment, our blind people are capable of meeting the highest requirements of industry in producing a great variety of jobs and delivering them on schedule.

Industry in the Greater Cincinnati area has come to recognize that it is good business to do business with the CAB workshop because it is business not charity oriented.

Boasting 50,000 square feet of shop and storage space, convenient location, railroad siding and off-street truck loading docks, experienced managers and skilled blind workers, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind continues on the alert to secure contract jobs to keep its work pool of 150 blind people busy.



STORE MAP - OPEN THIS

HANDLE WITH CARE

THIS SIDE UP

SPOTLIGHT

18-10 OZ JARS

WITH DISPENSER

Fresh-ground Flavor

SPOTLIGHT

18-10 OZ JARS

WITH DISPENSER

Fresh-ground Flavor

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SPOTLIGHT

18-10 OZ JARS

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SPOTLIGHT

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AWAY FROM THE ASPHALT STREETS

The Max and Alfred M. Stern Memorial Camp, despite unseasonal weather last summer, conducted five separate sessions for children, young adults and older people from June 24 through August 23. Located along I-71 a few miles east of Mason, Ohio, the tract has been a part of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind program since 1949, when it was originally purchased to serve as a vacation home and farm school.

During the past ten years, the grounds have been developed into one of Ohio's most attractive campsites with its rolling acres, small cottages, dining rooms, recreation hall, swimming pool, two fishing lakes. . .all tied together by wide, paved, connecting walks.

An experienced camp director and a staff of four counsellors conduct a professionally-planned program of activities geared to the age and interest of each group.

Water sports include swimming, boating and fishing. On the playground there is basketball, outdoor bowling, group games, hiking and the jungle gym. Indoor recreation includes dancing, concerts, shuffleboard, bingo, plus arts and crafts. There are hootenanny sessions, hayrides, talent shows, field trips, and overnight camp-outs.

While no qualified individual is denied this wonderful experience because of inability to pay, visually handicapped people are encouraged to contribute towards the cost of operating the camp if they can in accord with the policies of the United Appeal.

A considerable part of the Cincinnati Association for the Blind's summer camp costs is met by "camperships". . .funds donated by church service and other organizations and from individual donations contributed to support needy campers, especially children.

OFFICERS

Harold J. Woehrmyer, President
William P. Camm, Vice-President
Thomas W. Earls, Vice-President
Thomas E. Davidson, Treasurer
Miss Virginia Engelken, Secretary

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HONORARY MEMBERS

William Beiser, President Emeritus
Leroy Brooks, Jr. (1957-1963)
Eugene R. Buss, Jr.
Calvin S. Glover (1958-1965)
Harold N. Hermann (1963)
Frederick Hinkle (1946-1950)
Charles Kuhn (1945)
Miss Estelle Lawes (1948-1955)
Miss Rebecca Mack (1956-1968)
Erwin Mark (1958-1966)
Walter Schmitt (1945-1964)
Murray Seasingood
Mrs. Oscar Silberschmidt (1951-1962)
Mrs. Max Stern (1947-1957)
Miss Florence Trader (1944-1964)

Milton A. Jahoda, Executive Director
Mrs. Joseph Reinersman, Assistant Secretary
Samuel S. Sheffield, Assistant Treasurer

SUMMARY OF OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES AND SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1968

HOW YOU CAN HELP

COSTS AND EXPENSES:

Social service and rehabilitation -		
Salaries and related expenses	\$115,581	
Other	74,244	
		<u>\$189,825</u>
Sheltered workshop -		
Salaries, wages and related expenses -		
Direct labor	\$238,455	
Indirect labor	42,667	
Instructors, supervisors, etc.	63,353	
Materials and supplies	430,863	
Other	59,327	
		<u>\$834,665</u>
Less - Income from workshop contracts	827,548	7,117
		<u><u>\$196,942</u></u>

SOURCES OF FUNDS:

Community Chest	\$ 84,401
Ettlinger Family Memorial	29,500
Contributions from individuals, foundations, estates, etc.	47,671
Service fees, interest and dividends on reserve funds, etc.	14,821
Reserve funds used for current operations	20,549
	<u><u>\$196,942</u></u>

While much of its support comes from the Community Chest, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind depends on the generosity of its friends to carry on its continuing work of helping the blind people of this community. This financial assistance may come by way of a membership in the Association, a memorial gift, a financial gift, or by including the Association in a bequest.

For those who may wish to remember the Cincinnati Association for the Blind in the drawing of their wills, the following form is suggested: "I give, devise and bequeath to CINCINNATI ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Ohio, having its principal office at 2045 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, the sum of Dollars (\$), to be used by said corporation for the purposes for which it is incorporated."

Contributions to the Association are deductible for income tax purposes.

For further information on how you may honor a friend or relative, or the memory of one who has departed, please call 221-8558.

If you would like to help in other ways, you can:

- Explore the ways in which your business can use the services of the Workshop of the CAB.
- Tell blind friends and acquaintances about the many services of the CAB.
- Volunteer your time and energy to help the CAB help blind people.

A UNITED APPEAL AGENCY

THIS ANNUAL REPORT MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH
THE GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP, WRITE OR CALL . . .

CINCINNATI ASSOCIATION for the BLIND

2045 GILBERT AVENUE/Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

TELEPHONE 221-8558



